

THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Journal Vol. 16, No. 1 February 2008
(Serial number 45)



KG VI STO Lettercard (LCS7) with the 2½d blue embossed stamp being struck on a Business Reply Lettercard - See page 8

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The Management Committee

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SOCIETY CALENDAR 2008

Saturday 5th April 2008

At the meeting room in the Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY, starting at 10.30 am and finishing at approx. 4.00 pm. Members who would like details of how to get to this location should contact the secretary.

Peter Rolfe is going to show us "the other half" of his collection of Sierra Leone. Some of you will remember that on Saturday 20th October 2001, following the AGM of that year, Peter gave us a display of Sierra Leone aerogrammes. Now he will complete the story of all the postal stationery that Sierra Leone has issued.

The Society's One Sheet Competition will be held during the morning, with all members present being asked to vote before lunch for their choice of winner.

The session after lunch will be for members' displays. Members are asked to bring along a maximum of 32 sheets each on a postal stationery theme, and to give a display of not more than 10 minutes with a further 10 minutes for viewing.

We will arrange to eat in one of the restaurants close by, and all members are invited to join in. The cost is not likely to be more than £10-15 each, including wine.

Saturday 14th June 2008

At **Swinpex**, St Joseph's Lower School, Octal Way, Swindon, 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm. Members are invited to display up to 32 sheets from their collection and to give a short explanation of about 10 minutes maximum. There will be plenty of dealers at this event, so there will be ample opportunity to add to your collection, and there is an excellent catering facility run by the Swindon Society.

Swinpex will be open from 10.00 am to 4.30 pm

Saturday October 25th 2008

At the meeting room in the Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. Members who would like details of how to get to this location should contact the secretary.

10.30 am Coffee and biscuits
11.00 am Society's AGM
12.00 noon Tony Chilton competition judging, followed by the presentation of the Tony Chilton salver
12.30 pm. Viewing of the society's auction lots for the auction to be held in the afternoon..
1.00 pm Lunch in a nearby restaurant.
2.00 pm The society's "live" auction to be conducted by Neil Sargent.

The meeting is expected to close by about 4.00

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT - FEBRUARY 2008

It gives me great pleasure to wish all members of the Society a Happy New Year!

2007 was a significant year for the P.S.S., since the end of the year finally saw the publication of 'Collect British Postal Stationery' by Alan Huggins and Colin Baker. This really is an excellent book, published by G.B. Philatelic Publications Ltd on behalf of The G.B.P.S and the P.S.S. If you were not lucky enough to get one among your Christmas presents, I would highly recommend

purchasing a copy at the first opportunity – It has certainly been worth the wait!

This issue's interesting item comes from my collection of Orange Free State Postal Stationery:

Like most stationery collectors I have always taken great delight in finding cards showing unusual destinations and uses in order to enhance my collection. This card falls into the later category, that of unusual usage. The item in question is a locally printed O.F.S. postal card – Type 5 Three halfpence Card (H&G 16).



This is not a particularly scarce card in itself; the interest comes from the fact that the card has been uprated with four examples of the 'Halve Penny' on three pence provisional postage stamp of 1896. These stamps are rarely encountered on postal cards and I have seen only a handful in all of the years I have been collecting O.F.S. Although there is no annotation on the card to confirm the reason for

the uprating, the only reasonable explanation is that it is to pay a Late Fee. It is known that two pence was the fee for items handed in up to 15 minutes after the close of the mails.

Michael Smith

SECRETARY'S NOTES – FEBRUARY 2008

It has been fairly quiet since the November Journal was published. However, I hope that interest in the new catalogue of British postal stationery published last year will generate many more members. If you can promote the society in any way, through talks, stamp fairs or publications, please do so. If you need help then contact the secretary.

I look forward to seeing as many as possible of you at our first meeting of the year on Saturday 5th April at the Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. The meeting will start at 10.30 am with coffee and will finish at about 4.00 pm.

Peter Rolfe is going to show us "the other half" of his collection of Sierra Leone. Some of you will remember that on Saturday 20th October 2001, following the AGM of that year, Peter gave us a display of Sierra Leone

aerogrammes. Now he will complete the story of all the postal stationery that Sierra Leone has issued.

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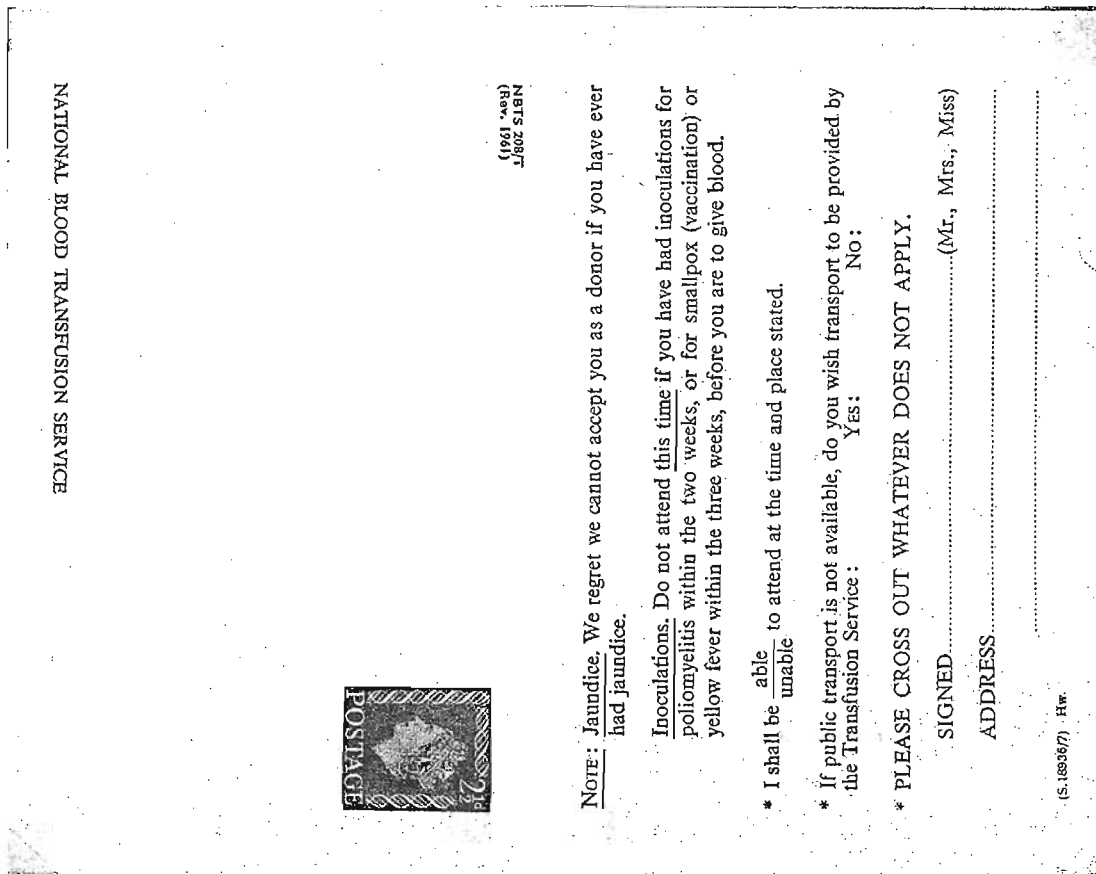
We will arrange to eat in one of the restaurants close by, and all members are invited to join in. The cost is not likely to be more than £10-15 each, including wine.

Colin Baker

GB POSTAL STATIONERY NEWS

Alan Huggins

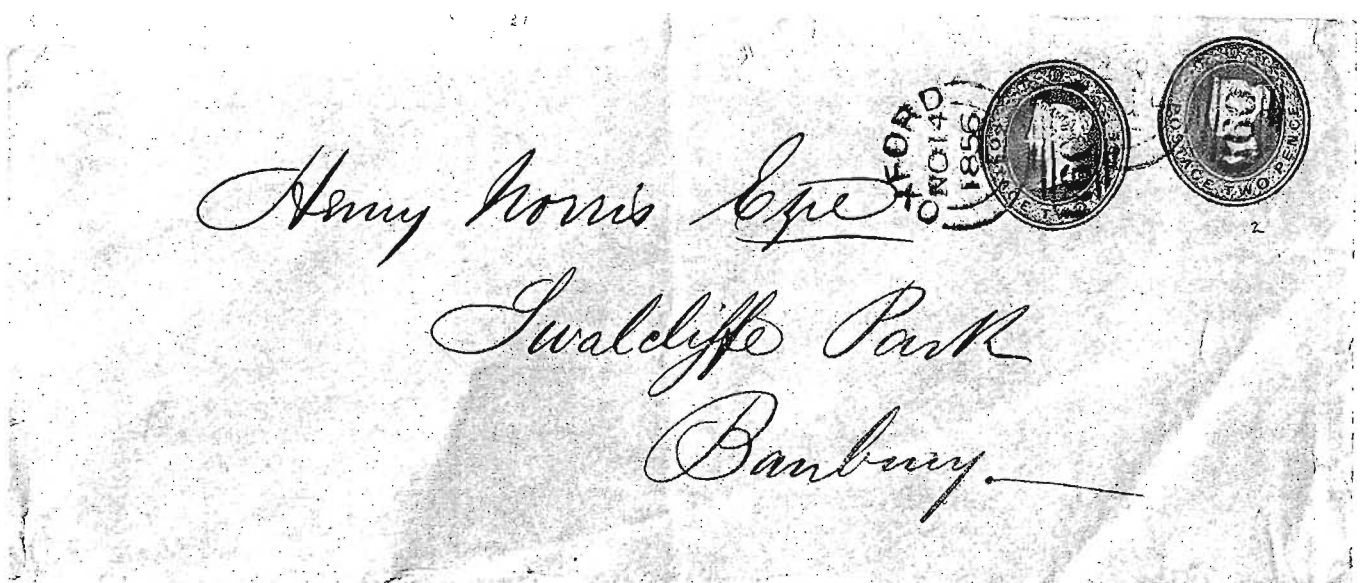
I am afraid that the gremlins infiltrated the last column in that inadvertently the illustration of the QE 2½d + 2½d reply paid STO postcard was repeated at the top of page 9 as CS174B. The correct illustration of the 2½d + 2½d National Blood Transfusion Service reply paid STO postcard (**CS174B**) is shown below.



Secondly the PO wrapper (WP6) with 'Parliamentary Proceedings' was from Michael Lockton's collection and not Colin Baker's.

Leaving aside the gremlins Murphy's Law also struck in that no sooner had the Journal appeared than the Grosvenor Auction catalogue of 19 November illustrated a QV 2d blue + 2d blue compound STO envelope (**ESC42**)

with 2d die 2 dated 27.10.55, which thus displaces the 1d + 1d compound envelope dated 6.4.58 (see Vol.15 No.4 page 7) as the earliest compound stamping recorded. The top flap has an embossed shield with 'COUNTY/HALL/OXFORD' and this item again raises the question as to why two impressions of the 2d die were struck rather than one, in this case, of the 4d die which was also available.

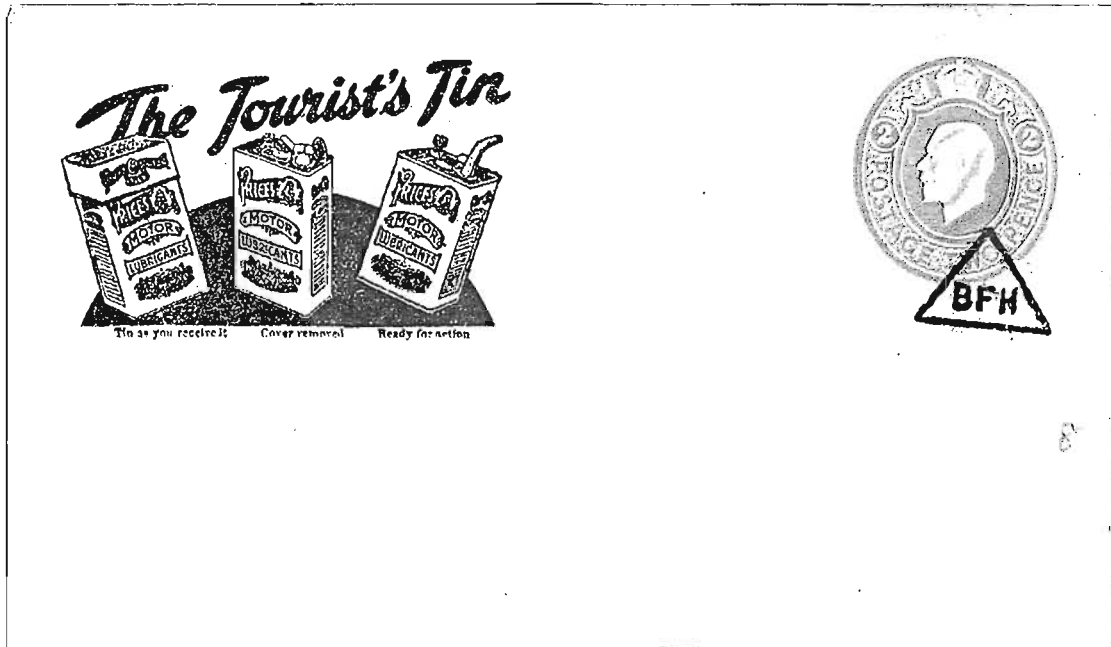


Further additions to the listing of revalued KGV items published in the PSS Journal Vol.15, No.1, pp.11-15; No.2 p.9; & No.3, p.6 (2007) are as follows:-

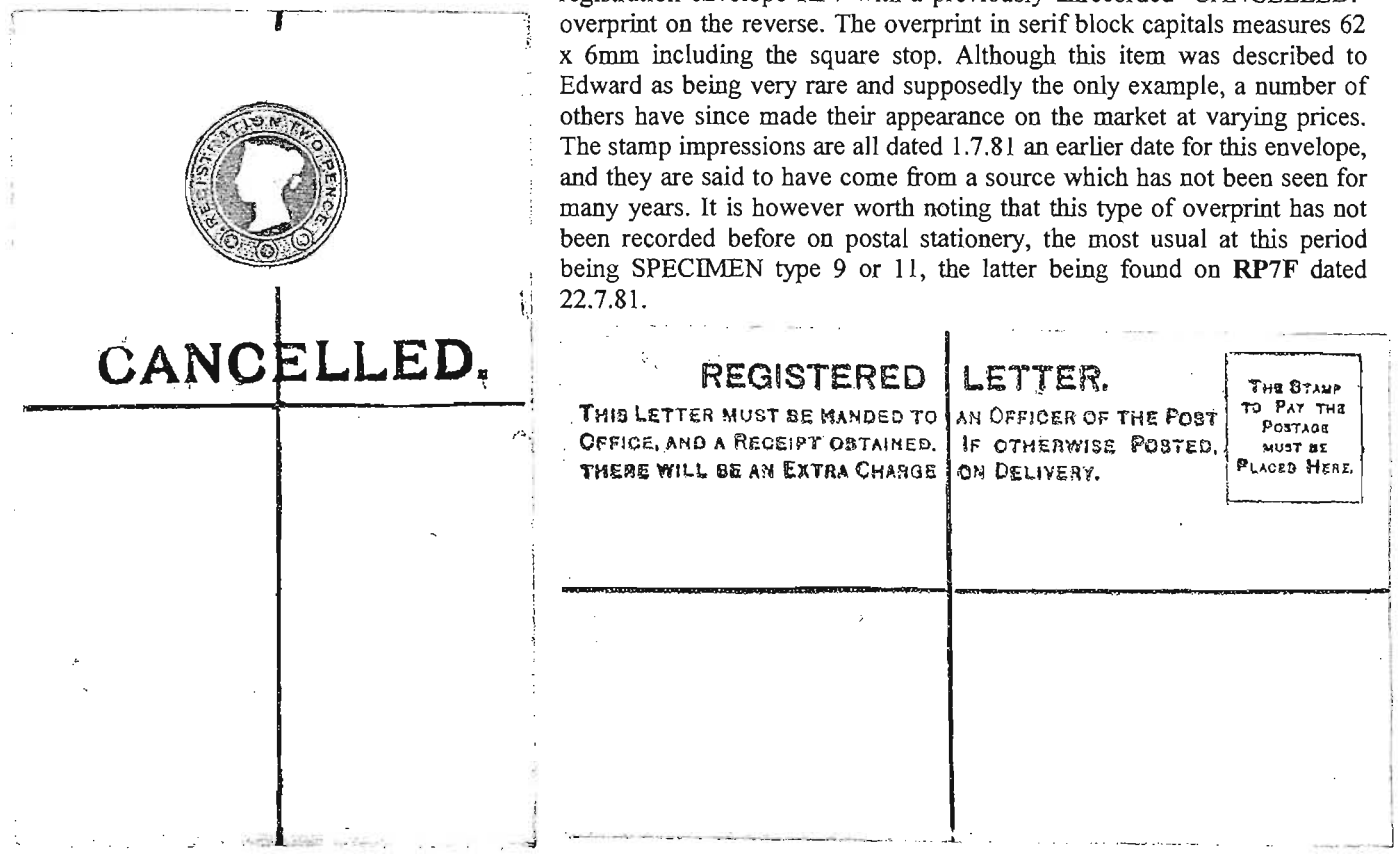
2d STAMPED TO ORDER ISSUE ENVELOPES (ES57)

LONDON L/E.C. Black National Bank of India (courtesy Neil Sargent)
 LONDON BFH* Black Prices Company Limited, Battersea, London S.W.11. (illustrated)

* BFH = Battersea not Birmingham as stated previously for
 3d STO envelope (ES58)
 and 1½d STO postcard (CS82) on pages 12 and 13 of Vol.15, No.1.




Several months ago Edward Caesley sent me an example of QV registration envelope RP7 with a previously unrecorded 'CANCELLED.' overprint on the reverse. The overprint in serif block capitals measures 62 x 6mm including the square stop. Although this item was described to Edward as being very rare and supposedly the only example, a number of others have since made their appearance on the market at varying prices. The stamp impressions are all dated 1.7.81 an earlier date for this envelope, and they are said to have come from a source which has not been seen for many years. It is however worth noting that this type of overprint has not been recorded before on postal stationery, the most usual at this period being SPECIMEN type 9 or 11, the latter being found on RP7F dated 22.7.81.



Next an item which shows a KGVI 1d carmine (stamp L24) serving as a revenue stamp on a 1949 Alvis Limited proxy card.

ALVIS LIMITED

FORM OF PROXY FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMPANY to be held at 12 noon on the 24th day of January, 1949 at the Registered Office of the Company, Holyhead Road, Coventry.



PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS

I,

of

being a Member of the above-named Company HEREBY APPOINT ALFRED EDWARD NICHOLSON, J.P. of "Fairfields," Pyrford Woods, Surrey, or failing him JOHN JOSEPH PARKES of "Beauchamp House," Kenilworth, Warwickshire, or failing him ROBERT WILLIAM RUTLEDGE of 91, Westfield Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 15, all being Members of the same Company, as my proxy to vote for me and on my behalf at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company to be held on the twenty-fourth day of January, One thousand nine hundred and forty-nine and at any adjournment thereof.

AS WITNESS my hand this.....day of January, One thousand nine hundred and forty-nine.

Signature of Stockholder.....

NOTE—This proxy is only available for the Meeting stated therein, and to be valid should be signed and returned so as to reach the Company's Registered Office, Holyhead Road, Coventry, not later than 12 noon on 22nd January, 1949.

This Form is to be used ^{*In favour of}..... the Resolutions
_{against}.....

**Strike out whichever is not desired. Unless otherwise indicated the proxy will be used in favour of the Resolutions.*

Postage will be paid by Alvis Ltd.

BUSINESS REPLY CARD
Licence No. CV 98

No Postage Stamp necessary if posted in Great Britain or Northern Ireland.

THE SECRETARY,
 ALVIS LIMITED,
 HOLYHEAD ROAD,
 COVENTRY, Warwickshire.

There have been a number of earlier reports in the Journal by various members on proxy voting letter sheets and postcards (see No.11 p.3; 12p.12 & p.18; 14 p.6; 16 p.12; 18 p. 10 & 19 p.8) but all these except one have a 1d embossed revenue stamp on the proxy form side and a letterpress or embossed postal stationery die on the return address side. The exception reported by Peter O' Keeffe which is illustrated on page 5 of Journal No.14 (1999) and reproduced on the next page shows the use in 1948 of a KGVI 1d adhesive stamp to cover the revenue duty with the

text relating to the proxy use printed over the stamp. The use of an adhesive stamp was perfectly in order since they generally were inscribed 'POSTAGE' and 'REVENUE'. Postal stationery dies are generally only inscribed 'POSTAGE' but clearly were considered the equivalent of an adhesive stamp in this instance. Such usage has been seen before but the additional feature of the card currently under discussion is that the return address side has a printed Business Reply Card layout instead of the more usual prestamped postal stationery format.

PARKER'S BURSLEM BREWERY LIMITED.
PROXY

I/WE, the undersigned, a member of Parker's Burslem Brewery, do hereby appoint Captain GEOFFREY WILLIAM DOBSON, of "Heyn Stoke-on-Trent, or failing him JOHN TOMKINSON KENT, of Stockton Brook, Stoke-on-Trent, or failing him SIR C LLEWELLYN BULLOCK, of 9 The Boltons, South Kensington, S.W.10, all members of the Company as my/our proxy to vote on my/our behalf at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company on the 14th day of September, 1948, and at any adjournment thereof.

As witness my/our hand(s) this _____ day of _____ 1948.

Signature _____
FULL NAME(S) in which Stock is Registered.
Please use Block Letters.

Holding £ _____

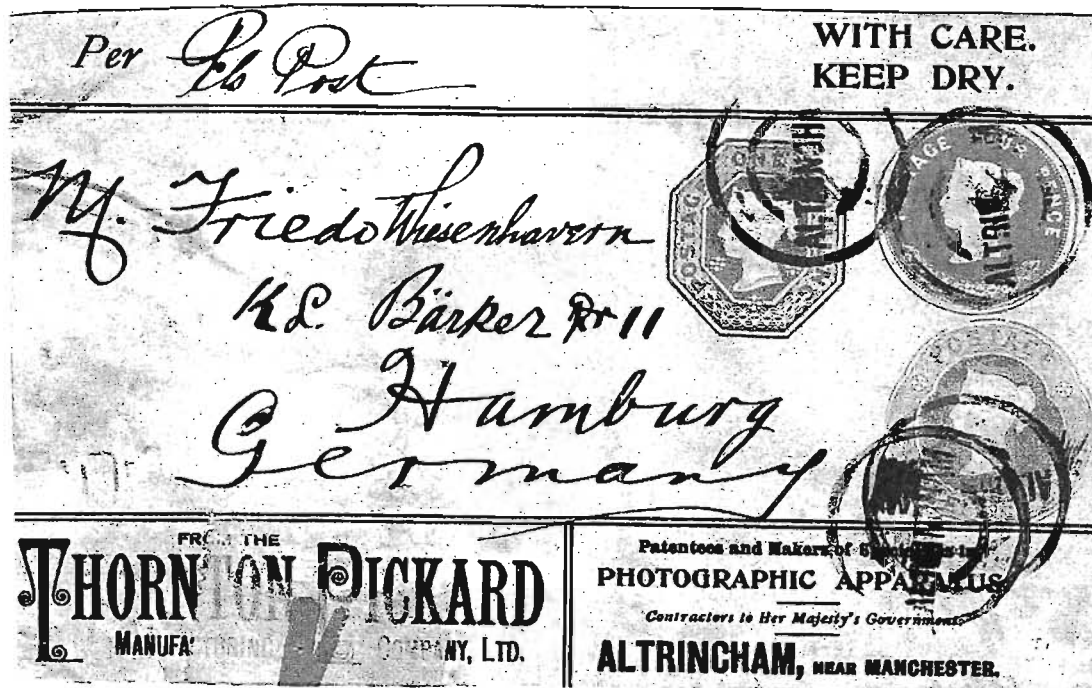
Resolution
For _____
Against _____

Please indicate with a X in the space above how you wish your votes to be cast. Should this card be returned signed but without specific direction(s) your votes will be counted in favour of the Resolution(s).

This Proxy must be deposited at the Registered Office of the Company not later than 12-15 p.m. on Monday, 13th September, 1948.
In case of a Corporation this Proxy should be under its Common Seal, or under the hand of one of its Directors.

By the time that members see this column 'Collect British Postal Stationery' should be well distributed and Colin Baker and I hope that you will find it both of interest and also user-friendly. Inevitably there will be some errors we have not spotted and updates on existing or new items. The amended information will be published in the PSS Journal as it becomes available as a specific section of this column.

Inevitably several new STO items have turned up after we went to press. They are a Triple compound stamping on a Thornton Pickard label 4d+1s+3d (23+25b+22b) addressed to Germany (ESC463); a QEII Sunday Express triple compound wrapper with Farleigh design 2½d+1d+1½d (L33+L30+L31) also used to Germany (WS81A); and a philatelic QEII decimal Machin STO envelope 1p+½p+½p (103+102+102), number to be assigned.



George King has found a previously unrecorded variety of the KGVI STO letter card (LCS7) with a return address to 'THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH' in Edinburgh. This is illustrated on p8 together with the listed type which is addressed to 'JAMES McLEAN, Ltd.,' with the 2½d blue embossed stamp being struck on a Business Reply Letter Card.

LETTER CARD



THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
Public Health Chambers,
Johnston Terrace,
EDINBURGH, 1.

TO OPEN THE LETTER

Postage
will be
paid by
James McLean,
Ltd.

Space for Post Office
date stamp only.



BUSINESS REPLY LETTER CARD
Licence No. 447

JAMES McLEAN, Ltd.,
McLEAN HOUSE,
WOODSIDE TERRACE,
GLASGOW.

60-05-1904
Ray McKinnon

Mr John McKinlay,

101, Greenock Road,

PAISLEY.



Graham Barker reports a KGV 2d STO postcard size f but without a coat of arms which I have never seen before (CS93A)

1935 : A GOOD YEAR FOR BULGARIAN POSTAL STATIONERY

Mike Whittaker

Bulgarian postal stationery has little or no published literature in English other than the usual listing by Higgins & Gage. In making an introduction to this neglected topic, 1935 might be an interesting point to choose: in that one year a normally conservative postal administration issued a set of nine View Cards, a commemorative card, a

provisional surcharge on two items - one of them unissued - and what would prove to be the last ever Letter Card issued in Bulgaria.

Taking the View Cards first, these are listed in the Higgins & Gage catalogue as 62 (1 lev dark green on light green) and 62a (1 lev dark green on pale yellow green).

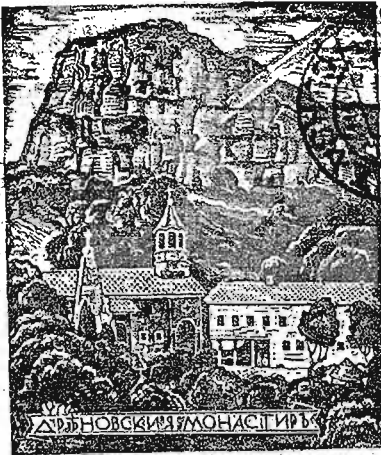


H&G 62 - ST KLIMENT OF OHRID

The imprinted value represents the Inland Postcard rate, which was introduced on 1st August 1924 and remained in force until World War II. The heading - in antique Cyrillic script - reads "POSHTENSKA KARTA" (Postal Card) and the portrait of Tsar Boris III is the same as used on the definitive stamps of 1931-1937. The vertical dotted line to the right of the illustration begins with "PODATEL" (Sender) reading upwards and there are four dotted address lines, the last with a solid underline. The overall size of the cards varies slightly, from 145 to 151mm

horizontally by 101 to 106mm vertically. The illustrations and text are all in one colour, either a deep blue-green shade (or "Russian Green"), less often in a lighter shade of yellow-green and on one card in my collection, an intermediate deepish green. The stock used is either buff or pale grey-green to light green. The illustrations measure 72 to 75mm x 61mm. The following table shows the nine designs and the colours of printing and stock which I have seen - some designs are found in more than one combination.

St Kliment of Ohrid	Deep blue-green on light green stock
Dryanovo Monastery	Deep blue-green on pale green stock
Rila Monastery	Yellow-green on buff stock
Mineral baths at Varna	Deep blue-green on buff stock
Open-cast mining at Pernik	Deep green on pale grey-green stock
Bridge in the River Isker gorge	Yellow-green on buff stock
General Nikolaev	Yellow-green on pale grey-green stock
Vlado Georgiev	Deep blue-green on light green stock
Mineral baths at Bankya	Deep blue-green on buff stock
	Yellow-green on buff stock
	Deep blue green on buff stock
	Deep blue-green on light green stock



ДРЯНОВСКИЯТ МОНАСТЕРЪ

Тукъ презъ 1876 год. Българочковани на чело съ пощъ Харитозъ, Пармаковъ и Вато Киро воляха лютъ бой за свободата на родната земя.
Дози България като очитъ си!

ПОЩЕНСКА КАРТА

БЪЛГАРИЯ



DRYANOVO MONASTERY



РИЛА

Рила е несъкрушимата крепост на българския духъ.
Пашата е била кърмачка на борбата за свободата!

ПОЩЕНСКА КАРТА

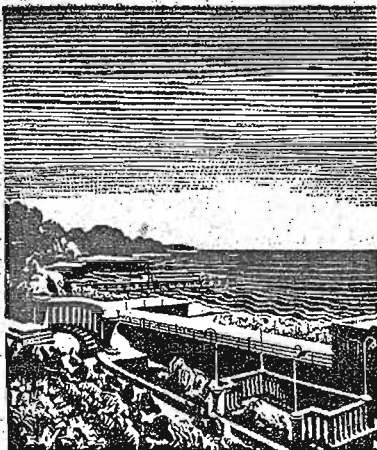
БЪЛГАРИЯ

За

*Мойно Ув. Петковъ
наемател карьерно право въ
враленскиятъ область
домени "Одеса"*

У. Враца

RILA MONASTERY



ВАРНА - БАЛНЕЪ

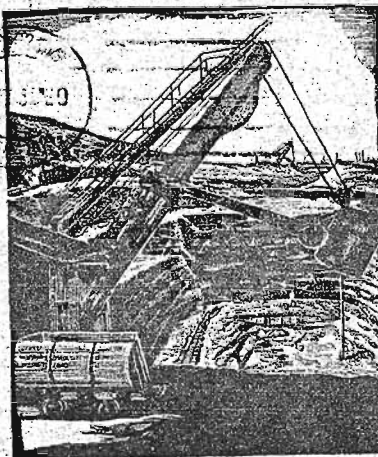
Най-благоустроенниятъ морски курортъ -
царицата на Черно море.
Морето дарява култура, благоденствие и
мгъшество!

ПОЩЕНСКА КАРТА

БЪЛГАРИЯ



**MINERAL BATHS AT
VARNA**



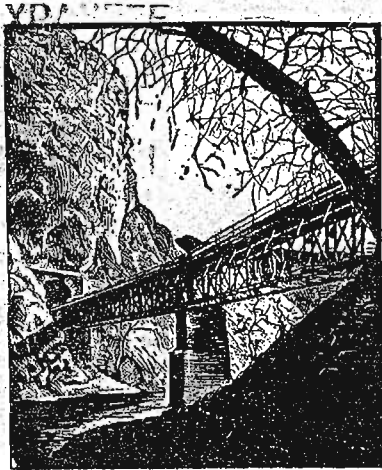
ПЕРНИКЪ-ВАЛЕРЪТЪ

Черното злато на България.
Въ земниятъ богатства лежи благоденствието
на българския народъ!

ПОЩЕНСКА КАРТА

БЪЛГАРИЯ

**OPEN-CAST MINING AT
PERNIK**



ИСКЪРСКОТО ДЕФИЛЕ ПРИ ЧЕРЕДНИЦЪ
Най-хубавата земя е българската земя!



**BRIDGE IN THE RIVER
ISKER GORGE**



ГЕНЕРАЛЪТ ОТЪ ПЪХОТАТА ДАН. НИКОЛАЕВЪ
Патриархът на българската войска.
Родната иска доблестна и честна служба!



Франк Зее
Ул. 20. Април № 13
София VI.

GENERAL NIKOLAEV



**МЛ. ПОДОФИЦЕРЪ ОТЪ ЗАПАСА
ВЛАДО ГЕОРГИЕВЪ ОТЪ С. ДИВОТИНО**
Бедобратникът възникъ отъ два дивизиона
... Той не умира! ...



VLADO GEORGIEV



БАНКИ - БАНИЪ
Минерална баня въ Банкя сж. една отъ
най-добрите въ България.
Да взимъ и ушлзотворкаме приредителъ
богатство!



Франк Зее
Ул. 20. Април № 13
София

**MINERAL BATHS AT
BANKYA**

Georgiev ("The Bravest Soldier in the 1st Division" according to the footnote on the card) and Nikolaev were military figures, Kliment (or Clement) of Ohrid is an important Saint in the Eastern Orthodox Church and the remaining designs are an odd mixture of famous and

obscure landmarks in the country. The exact issue date isn't recorded in H&G or the 1979 "Katalog-Spravochnik" (see footnote *) : the earliest postmark I have seen is 5th May, 1935 and the latest 3rd October, 1935 which suggests the cards were only on sale for a limited time.

The other pictorial card issued in 1935 commemorated the Pleven Cattle Fair, held in that city from 21st -23rd September. H&G list this as 63 and group it with the cards described above, but it was a quite separate issue.



H&G 63 – PLEVEN CATTLE FAIR

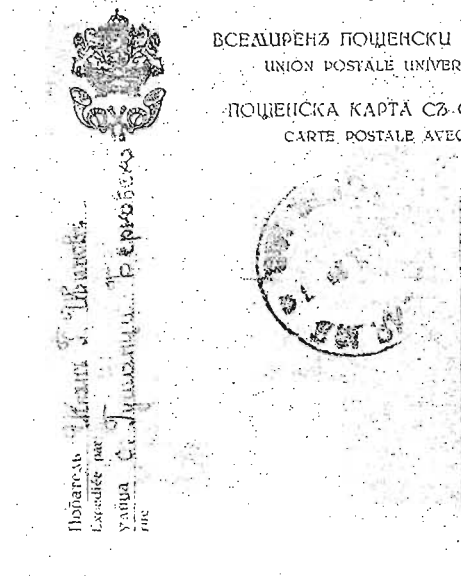
This was another 1 lev Inland card and was printed in dark green on pale green stock. The heading is identical to that of the View Cards but "Sender" is above the design and has two dotted lines. The dimensions are 147mm x 104mm and the illustration - cattle grazing in a meadow - is 64mm x 61mm. The box below the design has a three line inscription in upper-case Cyrillic reading "Visit the great Cattle Show Fair in Pleven City on 21, 22 and 23 September 1935 God."

(note: in Bulgaria, Russia, Serbia and elsewhere in Eastern Europe it is customary to identify a year date as such by adding the suffix "Godina" (= Year), often abbreviated to "God." or "G."). I have only ever found two copies of this card, one dated 17th December, 1935 and the other 7th February, 1936, so neither used in the run-up to the Fair, when the card must have been issued.



The 1 lev on 4 leva surcharged card consisted in fact of three separate items: a 4 leva card of 1933 surcharged "1 LV." in black upper-case Cyrillic characters (H&G 64) and an unissued 4 leva + 4 leva International Reply-paid card which was also surcharged before being cut in half to provide two 1 lev Inland cards (H&G 65). I have the surcharge on H&G 64 used on 12th August, 1935, an Address half of H&G65 used on 21st July, 1935 and a Reply half used on 26th July, 1935

H&G 64 – 1 LV. SURCHARGED ON 4 LEVA CARD OF 1933



H&G 65 REPLY HALF



Finally the 2 lev Inland Letter Card, H&G 9. This is in dark violet on buff stock with perforation 11.5 and the usual portrait of Tsar Boris III. Between this and the Arms at the left is a two line heading in upper-case Cyrillic "БЪЛГАРИЯ / КАРТА-ПИСМО" (Bulgaria / Card-Letter). There is a vertical dividing line in the centre of the card and at the left, in two lines, PODATEL .../UL (ITSA) No ... (Sender .../ St(reet) ...No....). There is a two line inscription on the reverse summarising the regulations against enclosures etc. The 2 leva rate for an Inland Letter up to 15 grammes was also introduced on 1st

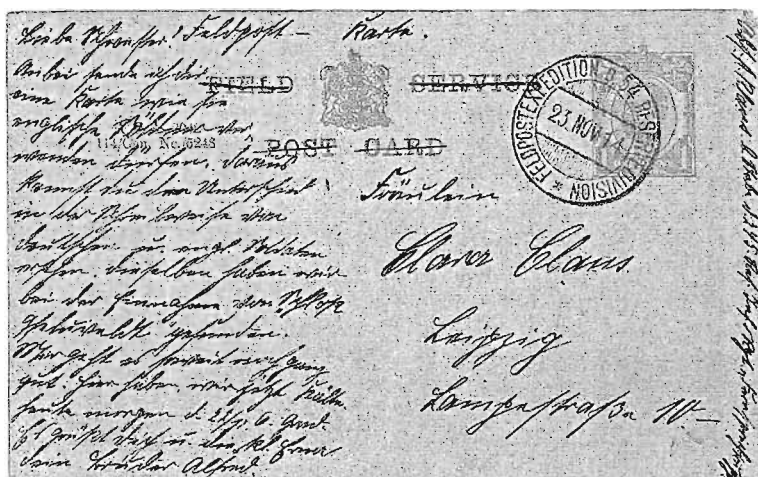
August, 1924, went up to 3 leva on 1st July, 1932 but reverted to 2 leva on 28th June, 1933. Once again, this is a scarce card: my only copy (bought during a visit to Sofia some years ago) is postmarked 15th February, 1936. Whether a low printing figure or low demand from the public was responsible for the scarcity of copies is not known: perhaps the latter, since the Bulgarian Post Office issued no more Letter Cards after this.

Hopefully I have conveyed some of the interest to be found in the stationery of what has been described as the least-popular European country among British collectors. The growing Bulgarian community in Britain, the increasing affluence of collectors in Eastern Europe and the

amount of material now available over the Internet on sites such as Delcampe and Ebay may combine to alter this.

* This is the "Complete Bulgarian Postage Reference Catalogue, 1879-1979" published in Sofia on the centenary of the first Bulgarian postage stamps and edited by Krasimir Vodenicharov: this lists postal stationery, meter marks, slogan and commemorative postmarks etc. Note that stationery items bearing a portrait of a member of the former ruling family are only described and not illustrated: portraits of royalty were forbidden during the Communist years.

A STRANGE USE FOR A BRITISH FIELD SERVICE CARD Colin Baker



Perhaps the War Office had foreseen something like this coming, for as early as 1912 they expressed concern that they would have difficulty dealing with the anticipate huge number of letters sent home by the troops. Not only would censoring letters take up valuable time and resources, but there was the possibility of sensitive information being leaked to the enemy.

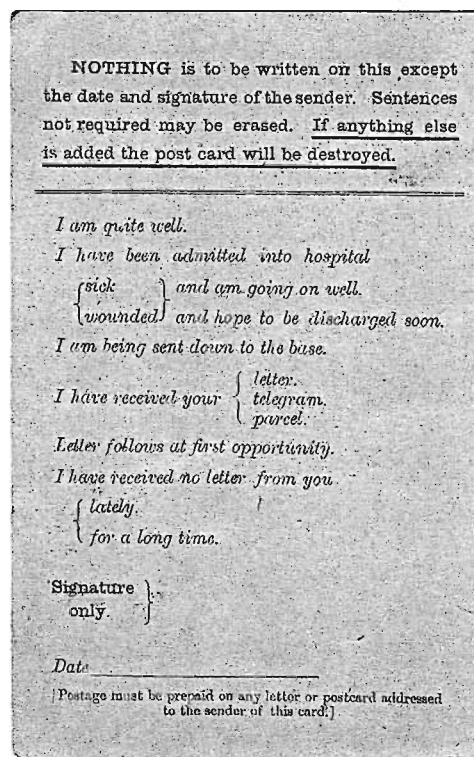
They proposed having postcards prepared with pre-printed statements on the reverse so that the sender could delete those that were not true. This would make censorship incredibly easy as any handwriting on the postcards (excluding the date and soldiers signature) would automatically condemn the card to be destroyed. However, to encourage the troops to use these postcards it was suggested that they would be issued free to the troops on active service outside the United Kingdom.

The Post Office was concerned that unstamped mail coming into the country would be surcharged as unpaid and insisted that any postcards used by the troops had to be stamped at the correct rate of 1d, the overseas postcard rate of the day. At first the War Office suggested the Crown Free Circle should be printed on the postcards, but the Post Office rejected this saying that in their opinion the symbol was used far too frequently already. They recommended that a 1d stamp should be impressed on the postcards to show postage was paid. This was finally agreed and printing of these postcards was put in hand. They were first issued to the troops in France and Belgium on 15 August 1914.

It is interesting to see who finally paid the postage on these postcards. Originally the War Office agreed that the cost should come from their budget, with a 25% discount usually afforded Government departments by the Post Office, but at the insistence of the Treasury it was the Post Office that finally carried the whole cost, much to the annoyance of the Postmaster General.

In the early stages of the First World War towns and villages were taken and lost by both sides until winter set in and both armies dug themselves in. The terrible years of trench warfare followed. But before that happened British forces retreated in a hurry from Gheluvelt, a village a few kilometres east of Ypres in Belgium, apparently leaving some of their 'free Field Service Post Cards behind.

I suppose it was all the fault of Gavriilo Princip, a Serb nationalist, for it was he who shot Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, on 28th June 1914. This precipitated reprisals against Serbia by Austria-Hungary, with backing from Germany. In a short time, with a domino like effect, Russia, France, Belgium and Great Britain, together with her Empire, were all drawn into the conflict by virtue of the treaties they held with each other. Thus started the First World War, a global conflict that saw tremendous loss of life and terrible hardship.



This German victory gave Alfred Claus of the 245th German Reserve Infantry Regiment, Signals Corps, the chance of sending a British card to his sister in Leipzig.* He wrote:

Feld-Postkarte

A. Claus b.Stube d.245.Res.Inf.Rgt.Fernsprechtrupp
Fräulein Clara Claus Leipzig Lampestrasse 10

Liebe Schwester!

Anbei sende ich dir eine Karte wie sie englische Söldner verwenden dürfen. Daraus kannst du den Unterschied in der Schreibweise von deutschen u. engl. Soldaten ersehen. Dieselben haben wir bei der Einnahme von Schloss Gheluelvelt gefunden. Mir geht es soweit noch ganz gut. Hier haben wir jetzt Kälte.

Heute morgen d. 22/11 6 Grad. Es grüßt dich u. die kl. Erna
Dein Bruder Alfred.

The postcard was written in old fashioned German, never used today, and I had to ask a friend if he had a German colleague who would translate it for me. This he willing did and also kindly translated the modern German into English for me as follows:

Field Post Card

Sender: A. Claus, Section d.245 Reserve Infantry Regiment, Signals Corps
To: Miss Clara Claus, Leipzig, Lampestrasse 10

My Dear Sister,

Enclosed I am sending you a card like the English troops use. From this you can see the difference between the stationery used by the German and English soldiers. We found these when we took over Schloss Gheluelvelt [from the English]. So far all goes well with me. It is now cold here. Yesterday morning it was 6 degrees C.

Greetings to you and to little Erna.

Your brother, Alfred.

The postcard that Herr Claus used was the third printing of British Field Service Cards issued on 15th October 1914, with the stamp and postcard heading printed in scarlet in one operation. The Regulation made by Parliament giving free postage to troops on active service was published at the end of October 1914, and although the War Office continued to provide Field Service Cards free to the troops, they no longer carried a stamp.

* The 245th Reserve Infantry Regiment was part of the 107 Reserve Brigade in the 54th Reserve Division. They fought their way down through Flanders trying to get to the coast, but although the combined Belgium and French armies with the British Expeditionary Force were pushed back, they eventually managed to hold the German forces on a line passing through Ypres, a town that became infamous for the loss of life on both sides. The village of Gheluelvelt was finally recaptured by British Forces on 28th September 1918, although after four years of bitter fighting there was nothing left but ruins.

A simple memorial to the officers and men of the 2nd Worcestershire Regiment who fell during the battle in 1914 now stands on the outskirts of the village.



Gheluelvelt just after the War. Photo: NELS



Memorial to the 2nd Worcesters

I am indebted to the following people for their help in solving the riddle of this postcard.

Ivan Holliday who obtained the translation from old German into modern English.

Iain Johnstone for advice on German Army units and titles.

Volker Parr for finding the name of the town in Belgium from which the postcard was sent.

Alan Jennings www.ww1battlefields.co.uk for the use of the image of the Memorial to the 2nd Worcesters above.

BAHRAIN – 1969 20f and 40f AIRLETTERS (Kessler 13 & 14 / Jones 11 & 12)

John Gillham

Now fast approaching 80 I thought (with a prod from Neil Sargent) that I should put pen to paper and disclose aspects of my study of the Bahrain 1969 20f and 40f Airletters.

Nearly 50 years ago whilst resident in Bahrain I took the opportunity to examine well over 1500 of these Airletters. My findings established possibly some 65

different watermark variations including 32 possible missing '0' watermark errors and 28 possible combinations of a major developing printing flaw. To date I've found 53 of the possible 65 different watermark varieties and many of both types of the major printing flaw.



The 9 basic types of watermark when viewed from the front of the airletters are:

A	Without watermark	
B	Watermark upright	AIR MAIL
C	Watermark upright and reversed	JIAM RIA
D	Watermark inverted	AIK MAIL
E	Watermark inverted and reversed	VIB MVI
F	Watermark sideways from the left	AIR MAIL

G	Watermark sideways and reversed from the left	JIAM RIA
H	Watermark sideways from the right	AIR MAIL
I	Watermark sideways and reversed from the right	JIAM RIA



Vertical spacing / sheet positioning allow either 1 complete / 1 complete and 1 part / 2 parts of watermarks to occur on Basic types B to E.

Vertical spacing / horizontal spacing / sheet positioning allow various combinations of complete / parts of 2, 3 or 4 watermarks to occur on basic types F to I.

In common with other Gulf States these Bahrain Airletters were printed by the Pakistan Security Printing Corporation Limited on paper with 'IMPERIAL AIR MAIL'

and crest also a manufacturer's code letter below 'M' of 'MAIL'. Various letters from 'A' to 'Z' have been recorded throughout the Gulf States.

Confusion exists as to whether the letter used for Bahrain is a 'C' or an 'O'! It is in fact a C, which can be described as either a 'C' with a small gap, or an 'O' with a break at the right. I leave readers to draw their own conclusions. For simplicity I have used 'C' to denote a complete letter and '0' to denote a missing letter.

The 11 sub-types of watermark are:-			BASIC TYPES								TOTAL
a	C	'C' seen once	B	C	D	E	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4
b	C C	'C' seen twice	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	8
c	C -	'C' seen at the top cut off at the bottom	B	C	n/a	n/a	F	G	H	I	6
d	0	'C' omitted	B	C	D	E	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4
e	C 0	'C' at the top 'C' omitted at the bottom	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	8
f	0 C	'C' omitted at the top 'C' at the bottom	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	8
g	0 -	'C' omitted at the top cut off at the bottom	B	C	n/a	n/a	F	G	H	I	6
h	- 0	cut off at the top 'C' omitted at the bottom	n/a	n/a	D	E	F	G	H	I	6
i	- C	cut off at the top 'C' at the bottom	n/a	n/a	D	E	F	G	H	I	6
j	-	'C' cut off twice left or right	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	F	G	H	I	4
k	- -	'C' cut off 3/4 times left & right	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	F	G	H	I	4
TOTAL			7	7	7	7	9	9	9	9	64

64 possible different watermark combinations are as tabulated above + Basic Type A (no watermark) = 65 watermark varieties. The 32 possible missing letter 'C' varieties are as tabulated above.

Numerous minor printing flaws exist on both values. However, there is one major printing flaw on the 40f which exists in two states:

State 1: On the 3 line enclosure warning on the back panel an orange 'dot' exists over the 'F' of 'IF' and a similar orange 'dot' exists below 'SE' of 'SENT'.

The 28 possible **state 1** printing flaws are:
Basic Types **B to E** as tabulated above

28

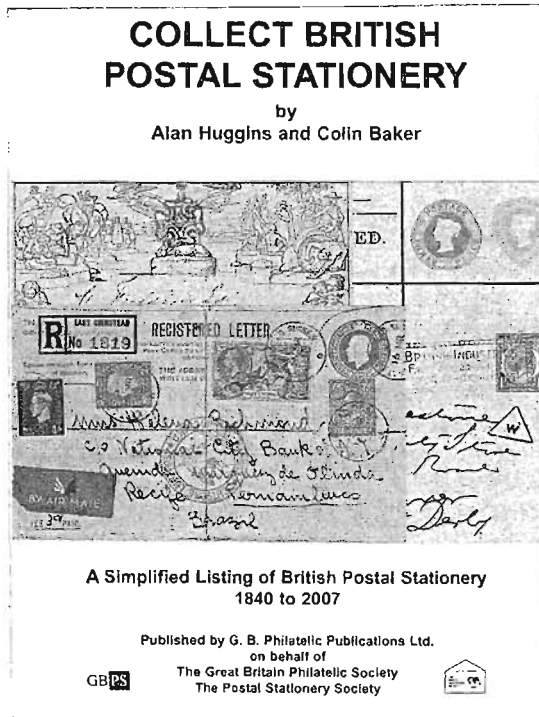
State 2: Later printings include both the orange dots also a white circle at the top right of Shaikh Isa's portrait

The 28 possible **state 2** printing flaws are:
Basic Types **B to E** as tabulated above

28

BOOK REVIEWS

COLLECT BRITISH POSTAL STATIONERY by Alan Huggins and Colin Baker. Published by GBPS and Postal Stationery Society, 2007, 151pp. Hardback and jacketed, coloured illustrations throughout.



If ever any title deserved the description 'long-awaited' it is this one. It is now almost forty years since the GBPS first published Alan Huggins' magisterial handbook on British Postal Stationery, a model of synthesis of an exceedingly complicated field that for the first time brought all the knowledge about what I call 'stamps with large margins' in one place. Alan's book has been out of print for many years but copies remain keenly sought-after and obtain high prices on the market. In those four decades our knowledge of postal stationery has expanded enormously, there have been many new discoveries and as a collecting field it has become mainstream. Yet it is a testimony to Alan's contribution that his system of categorising and numbering postal stationery has been retained in this new book and it is by far superior to the alternatives, as used, for example, in the Huggins and Gage catalogues.

The first thing to say is that this is not a new edition of Alan's 1970 handbook: it is a totally new updated and simplified listing of all British postal stationery, official and stamped to order issued between 1840 and 2007 following the Huggins structure and numbering but omitting much of the specialist detail of the earlier title. You will still need your copy of 'old' Huggins if you want information on specimens, essays, die numbers, registration dates and a host of other facts, particularly for the Victorian era. This is a truly new book and one that is of utmost importance for all postal stationery collectors and indeed collectors of GB in general since very few GB collectors do not encounter and include stationery in their collections.

Although it looks deceptively simple, the compilation and realisation of this catalogue has been a massive and time-consuming task. Alan has collaborated with a co-

writer, Colin Baker, the secretary of the Postal Stationery Society and has called upon the combined knowledge and expertise of many members, including your reviewer, of both the publishing societies. In fact, this publication is a fine testimony to the power of collaboration in philately between the venerable and renowned cinquentenarian GBPS and the relatively newer but lively and go-ahead Postal Stationery Society, barely a decade old. It is unlikely that this important publication would have been possible had the authors not been able to call on the resources of enthusiasm, knowledge, experience and support (and occasional nagging) of the members of both. As such it is a credit to both memberships.

The most striking innovation is the use of colour printing throughout to illustrate the printed or embossed stamps and other details of postal stationery designs. This makes an enormous difference to the ease of the volume's use. It is particularly useful in the enlarged illustrations of die types but is helpful in all sections. For obvious reasons, when entire items are illustrated they tend to be reduced reproductions which can limit their usefulness, but to keep the book's extent within reasonable bounds it is difficult to see how else the illustrations could have been handled. Nevertheless the overall impression is of clarity and the use of colour certainly adds to that. It is also enhanced by the choice of a clear sans-serif type and a largish fount for the type (a problem with the 'old' Huggins was its use of small type and a general cramped feeling in the layout). This is triumphantly avoided here and the listings are exceptionally easy to read, well laid-out and a joy to navigate. Overall, this makes the catalogue very approachable and thus, especially combined with the colour illustrations, very easy to locate and correctly identify items.

After a brief introduction outlining the scope and extent of British postal stationery and the structure and system used, the catalogue is divided into nine major categories, envelopes, telegraph forms, postcards, newspaper wrapper and letter sheets, certificates of posting, registered etc. envelopes, letter cards and aerogrammes. Each major section is further subdivided into post office, stamped to order, official and forces issues and then in turn into reigns. For the first time, STO advertising rings receive a full-blown section of their own, which from their popularity and importance, they surely deserve. Christmas and commemorative aerogrammes get their first full listing and the coverage is right up to date, including the Scout centenary jamboree postcards issued (if you can call it that considering how difficult they were to locate) in summer 2007.

An enormous amount of new information is here, both discoveries since the 'old' Huggins and material issued since. It is salutary to recall that the original book was published prior to the introduction of decimal currency. For many collectors, the range and complexity of recent post office issues will come as a revelation. 'Fish and chip' plastic packs, Welsh guaranteed delivery or 'post a book' jiffy bags may not yet be widely collected but I think this listing will spark interest. Already some recent items are very rare and with the post office reducing its postal stationery range and its apparent inability to distribute many items (or even know that it has issued them) means that a

savvy collector will be able with the aid of this book to put together a collection of modern rarities cheaply if not easily.

The clarity and simplicity of the listings is the book's chief joy. Postal Stationery is always going to be complex but previous listings ('old' Huggins included and especially Higgins and Gage) were never particularly easy to follow and were confusing to use to identify items correctly and structure a collection logically. I am currently re-organising my King George VI collection and I must confess that certain sections of that highly complicated reign had left me baffled. Now I sailed through the registration envelopes which previously had defeated me (and discovered that I was the proud and unsuspecting owner of several rare types) with the aid of the listing here. Elsewhere, the listing of compound stamped to order items, official letter sheets, and newspaper wrappers will bring a smile rather than tears of frustration to the collector's face, be they debutant or old hand.

The listing is priced throughout and initially the prices will cause many to whistle but I believe that pricing is if anything conservative. Many postal stationery items are great rarities which if they were conventional stamps would be much more expensive than the prices quoted here. After all a two penny Mulready (here £175 mint) is in effect a mint 1840 two penny blue. Nevertheless, some prices will cause debate not least among dealers. Many collectors will be glad to have bought their key items under the price regime of the 'old' Huggins. Few Telegraph forms are quoted at under £50 and many are up to £250 which as a collector of this material I can confirm reflects their scarcity if not their market value (I'm delighted to say) when I bought them. The prices also indicate the real rarity of some unconsidered and relatively recent item. The George VI penny halfpenny reply card at £150 mint may surprise you until you try to find one. A lot of material issued in the last two decades have no prices given because they just don't appear on the market so will be a challenge to price when they do turn up. Remember too that the prices given here are for mint and 'plain vanilla' used. One of the joys of postal stationery collecting is that used items are often uprated with desirable adhesives or bear worthwhile postal history and postmarks which add to their value. At long last, this listing will give a guide to base values.

Overall, this book is a triumph for which the authors and sponsoring societies deserve thanks and congratulations. It is well produced and printed with hardly any typos. It is strongly bound, printed on good matt paper with no show through and Pardys, surely the doyens of philatelic printers and worthy successors to Woods of Perth who printed the 'old Huggins', deserve an accolade for their careful manufacture. If one were to make suggestions for the future (for surely we will not have to wait another four decades for a new edition) the authors might consider including listings of postal orders and reply coupons (these exist elsewhere but gathering them here would be an enhancement since many stationery collectors include them) and perhaps a CD ROM or DVD could be produced showing the items illustrated complete and full-size, and perhaps also include examples of uprated and interesting usages.

At long last, Great Britain has a modern postal stationery catalogue that stands comparison with the national catalogues produced for other countries like France, Canada and Russia. Its appearance will certainly stimulate the

expansion of stationery collecting and dealers will be rushing to reprice their stocks. However, armed with this book you will still find bargains and rarities in the pound boxes. It is probably the most important new book published in GB philately in the past decade, and I mean no disrespect to the many fine books published on other topics in that period. This new catalogue redefines an important field for a whole new generation of philatelists and will attract many new collectors to the fold. You should buy a copy immediately, or, be like me, buy two, one for your bookshelf to keep pristine (once it's sold out I expect it to be highly sought after and command a high price) and another to be a working copy that you can annotate and carry with you on item-hunting expeditions. I confidently predict that you will repay your outlay quickly by not only finding bargains but also unlisted new items which you can notify to the authors. In short, the very definition of collector happiness. Thank you, Alan and Colin for providing us with such a useful and elegant answer to the question that Alan at least must have tired of hearing over the last few decades: 'When is the new postal stationery book coming?' It's here so buy it now!

Professor Iain Stevenson, FRPSL.

**FIJI GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
FRANKS – A New Look at an Old Topic** by David E. Gillis. Published by the Pacific Islands Study Circle 2007. 84 pages printed in monochrome on A4.

The Government Printing Office of Fiji used special types of franks rather than the more conventional forms of prepaid postage to mail copies of the 'Fiji Royal Gazette' to government offices and other subscribers in Fiji and elsewhere in the world. These appear on the wrappers used to mail the Gazette but also very occasionally appear on envelopes and postcards.

This work extends that published by David Alford (1991) and Ross Duberal (1998) in previous publications of the PISC and attempts to provide, for the first time, the 'Totality' of the data.

After a brief introduction there is an account of the Fiji Royal Gazette and a reduced size illustration of a complete copy, issued on 2nd May 1913, included in Appendix I.

The franks fall into two groups, the Rectangular Franks and the Circular Franks. Each type is covered by an overview which is followed by a detailed description of the frank and its varieties, wrapper printing varieties, wrapper paper varieties, types of cancels and period of usage. The final chapter looks at Wrappers with postage stamps.

As well as an analysis of the technical aspects of the franks and wrappers, David Gillis looks at the addresses, handwritten, typed, printed or applied on various gummed labels to the wrappers along with subscriber numbers. In appendices II–IV all this information is tabulated in an easy to understand form. Appendix V lists the known subscribers/addressees with their subscriber number, where known, by frank type and method of addressing (manuscript, typed, label etc).

Collectors who have copies of any of these franks will find this publication a wealth of information to provide the background to help them to understand and to write up the items which they possess.

John Barker

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Articles Noted Recently in the Philatelic Press

"Holy Land Aerogrammes and Folded Letter Sheets" – Tony Goldstone. (The Israel Philatelist – December 2007)
 First published in the Postal Stationery Society Journal No. 33 – 39 (February 2005 – August 2006)

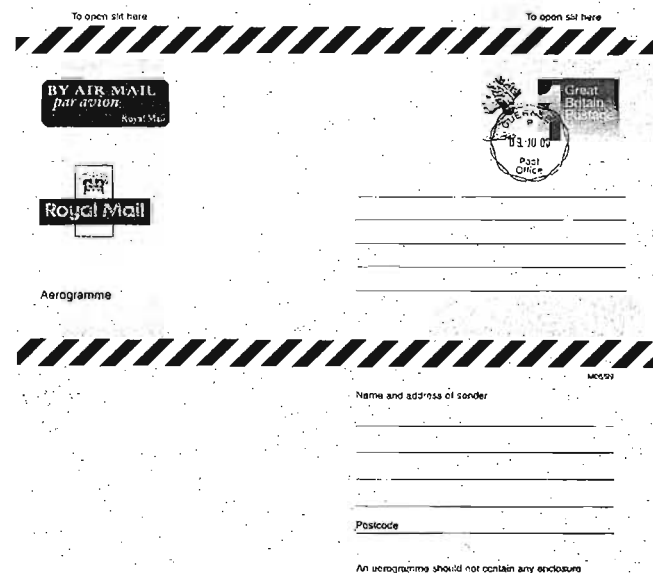
Articles in the Journals of other Postal Stationery Societies from across the World

Postal Stationery November/December 2007 (USA)
 Switzerland's Postal Envelope Production 1867-1886
 Surcharge Essays and Proofs of Stationery Issues for 1958 Rate Increases
 Chasing the Ogden 2000 to 2007
 Pseudo Stationery Part 5

Die Ganzsache 2/2007 (Germany)
 Der Remkes'sche (Oberhausener) Umschlag und sein Umfeld im Norddeutschen Postbezirk
 Neues aus der Kreuzerzeit Württembergs
 Ein neu entdeckter Farbfehldruck bei DR P 361
 Das besondere Stück: Brasilien P26 (H&G)
 Zuschriften, Vorlagen, Nachlese
 Aus der Vereinsgeschichte
 Neue Literatur
 Neuheitenberichte 8/2007-12/2007

L'Intero Postale Autumn 2007 (Italy)
 Un Senato... Imperiale
 La Cartolina Da 30 Cent. Di RSI Con Sovrastampa Nera Dalla Russia Con...
 Storia postale Al Pedrocchi Di Padova
 Attenzione Alla 3 Lire Falsificata
 Interitalia: Il Nuovo Nuovo Pertile
 Un Filagrano... in Duplex
 Vaticano. Un Novembre Di Interi

GUERNSEY AEROGRAMME – Tony Goldstone
 I enclose a photocopy of what I believe is a most rare aerogramme in the current series of G.B. aerogrammes with



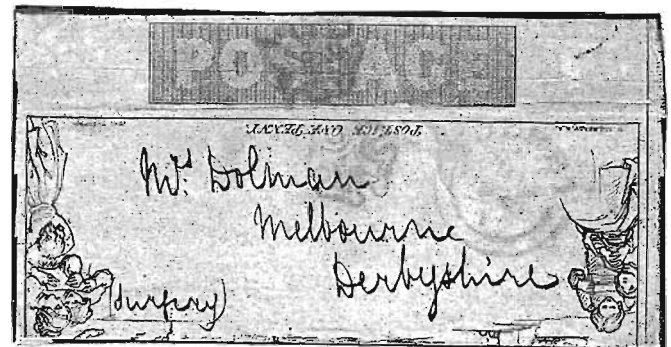
printer's code.

In the Summer of 2000 we holidayed in Guernsey and I was amazed to find that the Island Postal Authorities had exhausted all their stocks of Guernsey aerogrammes and had imported from the Royal Mail a supply of the then current British aerogramme (M06/99), and this was on sale in all postal outlets until a new issue could be arranged.

I immediately mailed about ten examples to my home address and to a few fellow collectors, and then prevailed upon the Guernsey Authorities to supply me with an example, with a first day of use postmark, in accordance with my long time standing order (since 1969) for first day aerogrammes. After some early resistance I indeed received one example, which I have pleasure in publicising in the PS for fellow collectors to note.

MUDDLED MULREADY - John Forbes-Nixon

Keep it simple is the catch phrase of any task that needs to be done. I found it difficult in understanding the instructions on setting up and using our new DVD and took a day to deal with a recent Tel/fax machine acquisition, feeling quite sure I could have written simpler more direct



instructions for use.

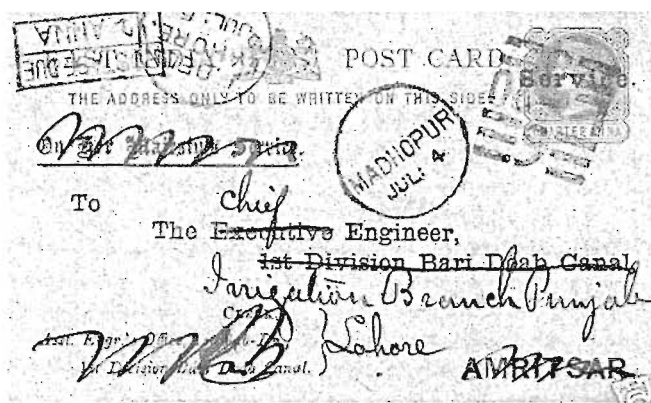
It seems it was the same in 1840. The sender of this illustrated one penny Mulready wrapper written from Sheffield on 13 September 1840 to Derbyshire, where it arrived the next day, got confused as to the correct way to fold these new fangled prepaid postal devices. Is it logical that POSTAGE should appear on the back of the missive? Quite reasonably, the writer folded the wrapper to show ADDRESS on the front which also puzzled the postal clerk who decided to apply the Maltese cross to this and the missing Britannia too!

At least it seems to have served its purpose and arrived safely even if "Contrary to Regulations". Does anyone else have a similar misfold?

AUCTION AND EBAY NEWS

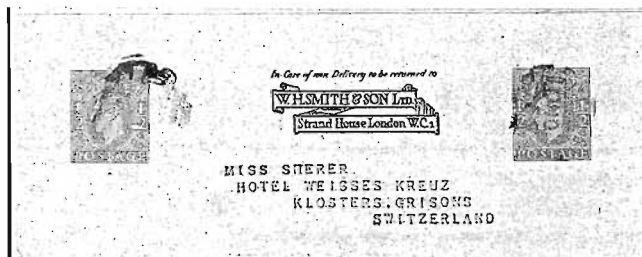
John Jennison reports that recently there has been some rare and curious stuff on ebay. The army official overprint used on a GB Queen Victoria halfpenny brown postcard looked very strange as also did the unused halfpenny brown Jubilee postcard (scans I have).

However the Indian service postcard, illustrated over the page, started at \$299 and finished at \$1227-this strikes me as a beautiful piece of rare stationery. The seller was in Germany and the winner was from India (8 bids).



QUERIES AND REPLIES

QUERY - GVI GB PTPO wrapper. John Jennison



I recently obtained the wrapper illustrated above. No date but it appears to be a London cancel. The halfpenny green wrapper itself is fairly scarce, but I have never seen one used in combination with another imprint; in this case a further one halfpenny green. The second imprint being applied to the left of the W.H. Smith & Son is unusual, but clearly the small size of the wrapper necessitated it. Could it be that this paid the small size overseas surface printed paper rate of one penny valid in 1949? Any information on this would be of interest, I have not found it listed anywhere.

REPLY - Colin Baker

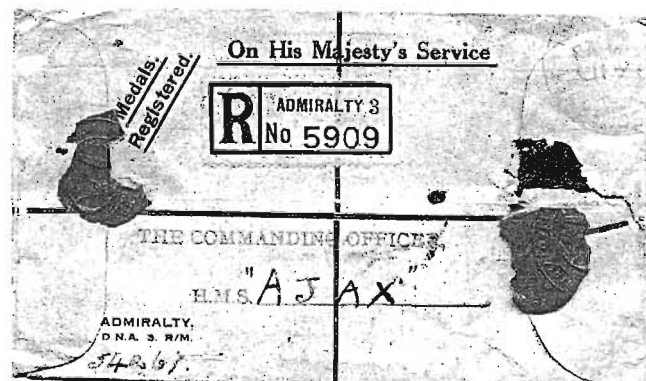
The double halfpenny on wrapper is known, but is marked as rare in the new book. As you surmise the second halfpenny was probably added later and to avoid it being struck over the printed heading it was struck on the LHS, there being no room left on the RHS.

The 1d rate covered the foreign printed papers up to 2 ounces from 1 May 1949 to 30 September 1950 and the foreign reduced rate for newspapers from 1 October 1950 to 30 September 1957, ie WH Smith would have used 1d wrappers throughout this period. The original halfpenny wrapper would have served the printed paper rate up to 2 ounces from 1 July 1892 to 30 April 1949. All these are foreign rates.

QUERY - GB O.H.M.S. Admiralty Envelope .

Edward Caesley

I recently acquired an O.H.M.S. Admiralty envelope and would like to know if any member of the Society would know anything about it. James Mackay lists the registration label in his book 'Registered Mail of the British isles' on page 359 but does not say which sub-office the number 3 represents.



Was the envelope specially printed for the Admiralty and what do the letters D.N.A. 3 R/M mean? Presumably the R/M stands for the Royal marines?

WANTS

Wanted - **QE II aerogrammes** with code MSE 092/04 and/or MSE 180/04. Best price paid for both or either. A.Goldstone, 166 Bury Old Road, SALFORD M7 4QY (0161 795 5612)

NEW RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY POSTAL STATIONERY CATALOGUE - Hans Eriksson

In the set of catalogues containing Postal Stationery with motive of railways and tramways the seventh part has now been issued: "Southern Europe 1876-2000". The catalogue shows besides regular stationery also official, private printed stationery and Hungarian revenue stationery. The catalogue contains 13 countries. Picture postal cards with views on back are shown as well as the Portuguese Carta Universal advertising letter sheets.

The catalogue has 200 pages in A4-size and all the stationery is described in English and illustrated. Over 600 illustrations. Price 40 euros or 30 GBP including postage and package within Europe. EU-members may pay into the Author's bank account no 703901-9 in Nordea bank in Stockholm, Sweden. IBAN code SE91 9500 0099 6018 0703 9019 , BIC code NDEASESS. The author also accepts bank notes. No personal or bank cheques are accepted because of high bank charges.

Hans Eriksson Storstvetsvägen 141 SE-16347 SPÅNGA Sweden

Phone +46-8-7604549

Email hans_eriksson00@hotmail.com

SOCIETY AUCTIONS

With this copy of the Journal you should have received the list for the May Postal Auction. If you intend to bid, please get your bids in early and read the notes on bidding on the back of the bid form. Please note the closing date for bids is noon (UK time) on **Thursday 1st May**.

The second Auction in 2008 will be a room (and postal) auction to be held after the AGM on **October 25th 2008**. **Neil Sargent**, the Auctioneer would be pleased to receive quality lots for this and future Auctions. To contact Neil please see the details on p2.of this Journal.

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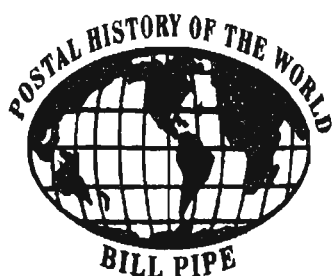
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Great Britain King George VI Postal Stationery die proofs from the recent find of Royal Mint proofs.

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